

H. CON. RES. 257—PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HARRY W. COLMERY

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 257 urging President Bush to bestow this Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award, on Harry W. Colmery, former national commander of The American Legion.

Mr. Colmery is credited with drafting the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, otherwise known as the World War II "GI Bill of Rights." The GI Bill not only enabled the successful transition of millions of World War II veterans back to civilian life, but also paved the way to create America's modern middle class.

In fact, about 7.8 million men and women were educated or trained by the World War II GI Bill, arguably our most successful domestic program ever.

With our brave service men and women currently engaged in dangerous military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas of the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism, it is so critical for Congress to continue to provide our military personnel with top-notch benefits like today's Montgomery GI Bill. As I travel throughout the first district of South Carolina, veterans and current service members always remind me of the importance of these educational benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to support this Resolution to honor Harry W. Colmery, a man of extraordinary wisdom and foresight.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF GUNNERSMATE WILLIAM L. WRAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Chief Gunnersmate William L. Wray.

Chief Gunnersmate Wray served as a United States Navy Frogman in World War II and the Korean War. Throughout his military career Chief Gunnersmate Wray earned three purple hearts, the World War II Commemorative Medal, and was a Prisoner Of War in World War II. He also received the Korean War Medal with two stars, United Nations Korean Service Medal, and numerous other accolades for his service.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Chief Gunnersmate Wray, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES JOHN G. MCCORMACK CHIEF OF POLICE CHIEF, MANALAPAN, NJ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Chief John G. McCormack, who has served the Manalapan Police Department and the people of Manalapan for 30 years and as chief for 7 years.

In his 30 years of service he has risen through the ranks of the Manalapan Police Department, starting as a police dispatcher in 1973.

Along with his commitment to the department he has spent numerous hours serving as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of Manalapan for the last seven years. He also serves as the Municipal Disaster Control Director for the town and sits on the Monmouth County Community Crisis Response Planning Committee.

His dedication to his work earned him the honor of being named Chief of the Year by the Princeton Education Research Institute and the Law Enforcement Man of the Year by the Manalapan-Marlboro Post 972 Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

Prior to serving and protecting his community, Chief McCormack served his country. He served four years in the United States Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam.

As an inspiration to police officers in his department and the state of New Jersey, Chief McCormack has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

HONORING ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, and its Bishop, John Richard Bryant. On Sunday, November 23, 2003, St. Paul AME will celebrate seventy years of serving the greater Bay Area community.

The Reverend E.N. Elliott developed the foundations for the Berkeley Mission in 1933. He was very proud to report his three members to the African Methodist Episcopal 69th Annual Conference.

Early developmental meetings were held in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Speese, but the needs of a rapidly-growing congregation led to the establishment of a temporary church headquarters at the corner of Grove Street and Russell in Berkeley. The Sunday school was set up during the very first week at that site.

Later on, the property at 1630 Fairview was purchased under the leadership of Rev. H.C. Claybrook. The name, Berkeley Mission, was changed to St. Paul AME Church, and the Seal of Incorporation was secured in early 1937. In 1953, St. Paul moved to the current location at 2024 Ashby Avenue.

The St. Paul AME family has come a long way from its humble beginning. The congrega-

tion has expanded to over 1,100 members and continues to grow today. St. Paul enjoys the distinction of being the only African Methodist Episcopal Church in Berkeley, California. Its ministries provide a wide spectrum of service, offering food, clothing, and housing referrals for those in need. Additionally, its doors are open for meetings of Narcotics Anonymous, Alzheimer's, and diabetes support groups. Children in the Berkeley community are served through education, tutorial and Saturday programs, as well as exercise classes.

Today, St. Paul AME is under the guidance of Presiding Prelate Fifth Episcopal District Bishop John Richard Bryant and Episcopal Supervisor Reverend Dr. Cecelia Williams Bryant. Reverend Dr. Vernon Steven Burroughs is the Presiding Elder and Reverend Dr. Allen Williams is the Pastor.

I take great pride in joining friends, family, and the congregation to salute St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church and its leader, the extraordinary Bishop John Bryant, on the seventieth anniversary of service.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 2003

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Department of the Treasury Inspector General Consolidation Act of 2003, which will promote efficiencies and improve oversight at the Department of the Treasury. The measure I am proposing will merge two existing Inspector General offices at the U.S. Treasury—the Office of Inspector General of the Treasury (OIG) and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA)—into a new office called the Office of the Treasury Inspector General (TIG).

The Department of the Treasury is the only agency with two Inspectors General. The benefit derived by consolidating OIG and TIGTA will be better oversight for all of Treasury, including the IRS, while ensuring that the new organization has all the same powers and authority as its predecessors have under current law.

The legislation I am introducing is necessary because the creation of the Department of Homeland Security has resulted in significant reduction in agencies and personnel at Treasury. The U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and most of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have been moved to the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice. The current TIGTA and OIG structure does not recognize the new organizations, where IRS has 87 percent and the rest of Treasury has 13 percent of the remaining personnel resources.

A single, elevated IG will provide strong oversight to all of Treasury's current operations. The Department also will gain the efficiencies from the merger by eliminating duplication and creating a more effective and efficient operation to further the mission of both offices.